by the Smal Scale Industry to induce promoters to expand and set up new ventures;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to help Small Scale Industry units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestion has been noted.

(c) The policy measures for promoting and strengthening small, tiny and village enterprises laid in Parliament on 61-8-1991 are intended to impart more vitality and growth-impetus to small scale units.

Rejection of Foreign collaboration proposals of the Soviet Union

2149. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have rejected all foreign collaboration and joint venture proposals of the Soviet Union despite the fact that some of them were backed by third country exports and buy-back arrangements without any exchange notgoing; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the number of proposals received and rejected by Government by this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government have approved a number of proposals for foreign collaboration with Soviet firms/organisations since 1988, as per the details given below:—

1988	..	7
1989	..	9
1990	..	8
1991 (Upto October).	..	6

Applications for foreign collaborations, which are not covered under the automatic clearance/approval procedures of the Reserve Bank of India under the new Industrial Policy, are considered for approval on the merits of each case and not on the basis of the country of origin of the foreign collaborator.

Non-utilisation of China clay available in Neyveli

2150. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantity of China clay available in Neyveli goes unutilised;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not setting up of industry there by the Central Government using this China clay; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a crockery industry or ceramic factory at Neyveli exploiting the raw material on hand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (c) A large quantity of China Clay is available in Neyveli. A number of units in the Small Scale Sector and 3 units in the Organised Sector are engaged in the manufacture of products using China Clay as raw material. In addition the Government of Tamil Nadu has set up 3 Industrial Estates exclusively for the Ceramic Industry based on availability of mineral resources which include China clay.

Crockery Industry and Ceramic Industry, which are major users of China Clay, are exempt from Industrial Licencing and therefore Entrepreneurs are free to take advantage of the availability of the raw material to set up such industries.

Black granite polishing unit at Tindivanam in Tamil Nadu

2151. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is contemplating to set up a black granite polishing unit at Tindivanam in Tamil Nadu in view of a lot of black granite

querries in and around the town within a radius of ten miles; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to set up such a project in Tindivanam in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) The black grainte polishing industry is a non-scheduled industry and does not require any licensing. Entrepreneurs are free to set up units based on the availability of black granite in Tindivanam, Tamil Nadu.

Kootterippattn as industrially backward area in Tamil Nadu

2152. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kootterippattn in Tindivanam Taluk, Tamil Nadu, has been declared as industrially backward area; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to promote industries there to raise the economic condition of the people of this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) The entire district of South Arcot including the Taluk of Tindivanam has been declared industrially backward by the Central Government. Industrialisation of any particular area/district is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Central Government supplement their efforts to the extent possible.

Drop in demand for commercial vehicles

2153. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that demand for commercial vehicles, LCV and passenger cars has dropped by about 25 per cent during the last two months;

(b) whether this is likely to cause recessions in the automobile industry; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) The sale figures of Commercial Vehicles and passenger cars (given below) during Sept.-Oct., 1991 have actually been higher as compared to those of the corresponding period of 1990.

	Sept-Oct. 90	Sept.-Oct. 1991
Commercial Vehicles	20,177	22,019
Passengers Cars	19,768	25,362

(b) and (c) While the sales of Commercial vehicles and passenger cars have been fluctuating in different months of the year, the analysis of sale figures of last two months when compared to the corresponding period of the previous year does not indicate a recessionary trend.

Losses suffered by H.E.Cs.

2154. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of loss suffered by two Heavy Engineering Corporations during the last two years and so far during the current year;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to curtail these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) The amount of loss suffered by the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi during the last two years and during the current year so far have been as under:—

	(Rs. in crores)
1989-90	(—) 33.62
1990-91	(—) 99.51
1991-92 (Prov.) (April, 91 Nov., 91)	(—) 77.49